

# Safety and health alert

# 41/99 Elevating work platform operator injured

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## Incident

On 30 December 1998, a fully elevated boom type "Gundoo G-5" Elevating Work Platform (EWP) tipped over seriously injuring the operator.

The injured person has raised the personnel basket to the full height and then reversed the EWP. At this stage, the elevating work platform lost stability and tipped over.

The department only recently became aware when advised by the injured person.

## Factors

- EWP was operating on an unlevel ground.
- Reversing with fully elevated boom contrary to the manufacture's operating instructions: "Do not travel on uneven ground with the boom elevated or extended".
- Tyres were not filled with water according to manufacture's instructions.
- Alteration to the original design by replacing the engine with an engine which has a considerably higher r.p.m. resulting in faster travelling speed than the original design speed thereby increased the risk of overturning due to inertial effects during acceleration. Also the replacement engine was lighter than the original engine effecting stability.
- The EWP was not provided with an operator's manual for "Gundoo G-5" instead an operator's manual for a similar EWP but of a different make was used as operating instructions.

## Recommendations

1. Design alteration to boom type EWPs must be registered with WorkSafe Western Australia or with another Regulatory Authority in Australia prior to use.
2. At all times the EWPs must be operated strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's operating instructions and specifications.
3. Operators must be provided with adequate training and must familiarise themselves with operating instructions.
4. All owners and operators of "Gundoo G-5" Elevating Work Platforms to ensure tyres filled with water (ballast).

## Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site

[www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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